

2011 Legislative Youth Advisory Council Members

Alexa Babin
Byrd High School
Shreveport

Alexa Babin is a junior at Byrd High School where she is a member of Astra, Beta, Art, Spanish, Youth and Government Clubs. Alexa is on the Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) leadership team and was the Northwest Louisiana FCA Female Athlete of the Year for 2010-2011. She is a member of both the Byrd and City of Shreveport swim teams. Alexa ranks in the top 3% of her class and is a member of the National Honor Society and the National Society of High School Scholars. A recipient of the President's Volunteer Service Award, she is the co-founder of STAR (Studying to Achieve Results) at Providence House which is the largest transitional shelter for homeless families in Louisiana. Alexa is a member of the Broadmoor Baptist Church where she is active in the youth programs.

Emma Hollenshead
Caddo Magnet High School
Shreveport

Emma Hollenshead is a National Honor Society (NHS) senior at Caddo Magnet High School where she is involved with Youth and Government, SADD, Octagon, and Red Cross. The hallmark of her high school years has been community involvement and service. Active in St. Jude youth ministry, she serves as youth representative to the parish council. As the 4-H representative serving on LYAC, Emma gave a promotional speech on the steps of the state capitol during the annual "4-H Day at the Capitol." She has served as a 4-H camp counselor, acted for East Bank Theatre, attended Louisiana Youth Seminar leadership camp, and worked part-time for three local business owners. Emma finds her service to The Boys and Girls Club most fulfilling as it keeps her mindful of the community's most important needs. Last year she was honored to receive the first regional LYAC Leadership Award. This school year, she said that she is "grateful to be fully involved in LYAC to learn up close about the government process. I look forward to serving as a voice for youth in state government."

Mary Beth Turner
Byrd High School
Shreveport

Mary Beth Turner is a junior at C.E. Byrd High School where she is an active member of the tennis team, Student Council, Youth and Government, Z club, Beta club, Astra club, Lyle's Leaders, Diamond Girls, and Spanish club. She is also involved in her church youth and choir program. After being chosen to attend the Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership seminar, Mary Beth gained valuable skills that will prove to be beneficial during her term as a LYAC member. She also received the Presidential Volunteer Service award after achieving one hundred hours of community

service last year. She is dedicated to volunteer work and thoroughly enjoys making a difference in her community. When asked about her selection to LYAC, Mary Beth commented, "I'm really excited to experience the legislative process of our state, and possibly create changes in our laws that would affect the youth in Louisiana. Representing the youth in our state is a great honor and an awesome opportunity!"

Anna Walton
C.E. Byrd High School
Shreveport

Anna Walton is a senior at C.E. Byrd High School in Shreveport. She participates as a member of the Beta Club, Z Club, Latin Club, Astra Club, Youth & Government, Lyle's Leaders, National Honor Society, Quiz Bowl, varsity cross country, and varsity track. Anna served as Beta Club president as a junior, and is Youth & Government president, Z Club Zonta representative, and Astra Club corresponding secretary in the 2011-2012 school year. She is an accomplished writer, winning the Caddo Parish "We Care" essay contest as well as placing in several other writing contests. As to her appointment to the Louisiana Legislative Youth Advisory Council, Anna said, "Serving on this youth council is the extra push we need to strengthen our voice in the government. So many bright minds in one room can only lead to progress. We cannot forget that this would not be possible without those that see the potential in us and respect our opinions."

Chase Courville
Airline High School
Bossier City

Chase is a junior at Airline High School where he maintains a 4.0 GPA. He is a member of the National Honor Society and takes advanced courses at Bossier Parish Community College as part of Airline High School's gifted and talented program. He served as Project Manager for the Robotics Team and has been involved in the school's soccer team and student government. Captain of the debate team during the 2010-2011 school year, Chase won several titles throughout the region for his debating skills. He attended a nationally ranked debate camp at the University of Texas and participated in the Regional Cyber Discovery Camp hosted by Louisiana Tech University last summer. Chase is also a member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and plans to attend an educational tour in Spain this summer to better aid him in his understanding of a multicultural society. In the 2011-2012 school year, he will serve as a Freshmen Mentor and participate in the Bossier Youth Leadership Program. When asked about his selection to LYAC, Chase commented, "Words can't even describe how excited I am about being selected for this council. Ever since I started taking an interest in government and policy it has been my dream to serve as a voice for all the youth of Louisiana. This is truly a blessing to take part in such an important statewide effort to convey the sentiments of youth to our elected official. I am really looking forward to serving on this council and working to meet the needs of this great state."

Andrew Tan
Sterlington High School
Monroe

Andrew Tan is a senior at Sterlington High School where he plays the xylophone in the school band and is on the cross country team. He is a member of the Beta Club and the Student Government Association. He has also been a violinist in the Monroe Symphony Orchestra since 2006. Andrew enjoys providing live music at various events such as his school's annual senior citizens' luncheon and Ouachita Parish's Relay for Life. When asked about his selection to LYAC, Andrew commented, "I believe our government lacks youthful ideas and energy. The Legislative Youth Advisory Council is a great means for communicating the needs of my generation to public officials. I am very honored to serve my peers in this way."

Tucker Baker
Holy Savior Menard Central High School
Alexandria

Tucker Baker is a senior at Holy Savior Menard Central High School. He has been a member of the cross country, soccer and track teams for the past 3 years. Tucker served as president of his freshman, sophomore and junior classes, and is the 2011-2012 editor of his high school year book, The Talon. He recently represented his school at Louisiana Boys State learning more about the role of government in our state.

Tucker is an Eagle Scout with Troop 6, Alexandria, Louisiana Purchase Council of Boy Scouts of America. He serves as senior patrol leader for his troop of more than 60 Boy Scouts. He previously served as quarter master and patrol leader. He has attended two expeditions to Philmont Scout Ranch and will be a crew leader during his second trip to the Canada Boundary Waters Canoe area. These leadership and team work opportunities have given Tucker the insight to work with others and utilize skills for compromise for the benefit of the entire group.

Cari Beth Barrett
Bolton High School
Alexandria

Cari Beth Barrett is a senior at Bolton High School. Recently elected the 2011 Governor of Louisiana Girls State, she is a member of the Key Club, National Honor Society, National English Honor Society, Fellowship of Christian Students/Athletes, the Theatre Department, Art Club, two time Universal Dance Association (UDA) All American Dance Team member and captain of the Bolton Danceline. She has participated in the Literary Rally for the past three years and served in Student Government as Secretary and Vice President. Cari is an active youth council member at Calvary Baptist Church where she has participated in numerous mission trips and activities as well as serving for the fourth year as a counselor for Buddy Camp at First United Methodist Church in Alexandria. In her second year working with LYAC, Cari noted, "My involvement with LYAC and realizing as

a young person I do have a voice inspired me to run for governor of Girls State. I feel knowing who you are, sharing your talents, being true to yourself and those you serve is a great accomplishment when you use those things for the betterment of others and making a difference."

Maggie Conerly
Bolton High School
Alexandria

Maggie Conerly is a senior and president of the Student Body at Bolton High School. An honoree as one of Bolton's Who's Who, she participated in the Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership program completing 200 hours of community service. She was also selected as one of 25 rising seniors, nationwide and internationally and attended the Trent Lott Leadership Institute. Maggie is the debate captain of the National Forensic League and is a member of the National Honor Society. She also is active in the Bolton Theater, cheerleading and the Bolton mentor program and is a member of the soccer and tennis teams.

When asked about her selection to this year's LYAC, Maggie commented that "it's such an honor to be able to be involved with such an outstanding organization. I love being able to really learn more about what is going on in our state by experiencing it first hand. It's exciting to be involved with the changes that are made. The council is an amazing opportunity that I am truly blessed to be part of."

Austin Bordelon
Marksville High School
Marksville

Austin Bordelon is a senior at Marksville High School. He is a member of the Beta Club, band, Fellowship of Christian Students and 4-H. He serves on the 2011-2012 Louisiana State 4-H Executive Committee, serving as a 2010-2011 National 4-H Conference Delegate. He was recently selected as a member of the Youth Advisory Committee for the Central Louisiana AHEC. Austin maintains a 4.0 GPA.

Emily Ryan
Marksville High School
Marksville

Emily Ryan is a sophomore at Marksville High School where she has been active in theater, the Lady Tigers Softball Team and in student government, serving as a MHS council member. She is also a member of the Beta Club and LA Gear Up Club. Emily was selected to attend the Jr. National Young Leaders Conference and the Jr. Presidential Youth Inaugural Conference in Washington, D.C.

Last year, Emily served as an alternate member of the Louisiana Legislative Youth Advisory Council. In that capacity and as a Marksville High School Student Council Member, Emily planned and

coordinated Marksville High School's first ever Government Day. Several state, parish and other local elected officials participated in Government Day, explaining their role and responsibilities in our government. Emily hopes to make Government Day an annual event.

Emily represents the 5th Congressional District on the 2011-2012 Legislative Youth Advisory Council (LYAC) and serves as the council's vice-president. As Emily explained, "I'm so excited to be a part of LYAC and serve as a voice for young people across the state. This is an opportunity to share the ideas and needs of my generation with our government leaders. Leading by example and being the voice for young people who often feel they are not heard is important to me. I want to help make Louisiana a better place to live."

Nathan Babb
Baton Rouge Magnet High School
Baton Rouge

Nathan Babb is a senior at Baton Rouge Magnet High School. He is an active member of the Beta Club, serving as its president this school year. He also serves as the president and founder of Billiards Club, a member of Mayor's Youth Advisory Council for the city of Baton Rouge, and a participant of the Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership Seminar and Boys State. Nathan is a member of the school swim team and has participated as a member of the soccer team. As a scout with the Boys Scouts of America, Troop 14, he is now completing work on his Eagle Project. Commenting on his selection as a member of the Legislative Youth Advisory Council, Nathan said, "I feel honored and privileged to be a part of such a prestigious council as the LYAC. To be surrounded by a group of other politically interested teenagers from across the state is not only rewarding, but invigorating."

Tousley Leake
West Feliciana High School
St. Francisville

Tousley Leake is a sophomore at West Feliciana High School, where she has been a member of the volleyball, soccer, and tennis teams. She is also a member of the Beta Club, Interact Club, Student Government Association, and Students Against Destructive Decisions Club. She is a member of the Mock Trial team, which she believes to be a great introduction to the area of law and will be valuable experience for her term as a LYAC member. Tousley is a varsity cheerleader and takes part in Young Life and youth groups at various local churches. She has been on a mission trip to Washington D.C., where she gained a love for helping others in need and is looking forward to attending Young Life camp in Michigan this summer. When asked about her selection to LYAC, Tousley commented, "At my age, I am so excited to be a part of the Legislative Youth Advisory Council and serve as a voice for all youth across the state. This is really a special opportunity to share the needs and perspectives of my generation with our public officials. Becoming a stronger voice and leader for this purpose is my goal."

Jordan Lange
Erath High School
Erath

Jordan Lange is a junior at Erath High School where he has been an active member of the Beta Club serving as treasurer and participating in state and national conventions for the past two years. Jordan has served as the president of his class for three years and sits as a member of the EHS Advisory Board. He was recently elected to serve as Student Council President-Elect and will be a member of the EHS Executive Board. He has previously held the positions of senator and representative. At the 2011 Louisiana Association of Student Councils State Convention, Jordan competed in the oratory competition and was named state champion. Jordan is a member of the EHS basketball, football, track, cross country, and tennis teams. Jordan has participated in the Hugh O'Brian Youth (HOBY) Leadership Seminar in Baton Rouge and the Broyhill Leadership Seminar in Charlotte, North Carolina. When asked about his selection to the LYAC, Jordan commented, "This is an exciting opportunity for me to learn more about current issues affecting teens in the state of Louisiana and to share my opinions and the opinions of my peers with individuals that have the power to make decisions that affect us all. It is the opportunity of a lifetime and I am very excited to work with other teens from across the state of Louisiana."

Alexis Dominique
Westgate High School
New Iberia

Alexis Dominique, the newly elected president of the 2011-2012 Louisiana Legislative Youth Advisory Council, is a senior Westgate High School where she has been involved in the following: Hugh O'Brian Youth Leader Ambassador (2010), Red Cross Youth Group President (2010-2012), Junior Class President (2010-2011), Senior Class President (2011-2012), Renaissance Club Vice President (2010-2011), Spanish Club Community Service Chair (2010-2011), Archive Intern at McIlhenny Company (December 2010-present), member of Q95.5 Teen Board (2010-2011), member of National Honor Society (2010-2011) and BETA club (2008-2011). In 2011, Alexis helped the student council host a St. Jude Walk in which they raised over \$2,000 for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

Over the course of her high school career, Alexis has received many honors, including Westgate's Freshman of the Year (2009), Social Studies Department Student of Excellence (2009), Outstanding Science Student (2009), fifth place in World History at District Literary Rally (2009), Mathematics Department Student of Excellence (2009), 2009-2010 Plan Louisiana Student Achievement Award, Spanish III Excellence Award (2011), and Principal's List (2009-2011).

Commenting on her involvement with the youth council, Alexis said, "Being a part of a group like LYAC is an amazing opportunity, one that many will not have. I am enthralled that we, as young adults, can come together to voice our opinion as well as brainstorm solutions to problems affecting today's youth. Our panel for this year is comprised of the most passionate and intellectual young

people that I know, and it is with esteemed honor and great pleasure that I am able to serve alongside them.”

Robert Lancon
Highland Baptist Christian School
Jeanerette

Robert Lancon is a Junior at Highland Baptist Christian School. He is the Louisiana 4-H State Historian/Reporter and past secretary of the Louisiana 4-H State Citizenship Board. He serves on Parish Level 4-H Boards and has been a delegate to the Southern Regional Teen Leadership Conference for his leadership in 4-H. Robert also serves on the Jeanerette COC Youth Advisory Board, and is involved with the Learn and Serve America National Youth Speakers Bureau. Robert is a hardworking student at HBCS where he is involved in Beta Club, National Honors Society, Service Club, Drama Club, and Choir. Robert commented on his selection to the council, "My involvement in organizations, at conferences, and working with youth in general has made me realize the true power of youth voice. I hope that our perspective can be powerful and vital to the Legislature this year. I plan on voicing my opinions, meeting with my officials, and engaging other youth." To Robert, the sense of apathy among many people in his generation is a great crisis our state. His hope is to engage them and prepare them for their roles in the future.. He looks forward to a year of working with the LYAC!

Katie Henning
Barbe High School
Lake Charles

Katie Henning is a junior at Alfred M. Barbe High School where she is a member of the soccer, golf, cross country, and track teams. In addition to her high school varsity athletic participation, Katie also plays on a Division 1 tournament soccer team that advanced to the state finals this past spring. She is also a member of the Mu Alpha Theta Math Club, International Club, Team Green of Southwest Louisiana, and is a Student Council officer. Katie has qualified for the Louisiana High School State Golf Tournament and the Louisiana High School Regional III Track Meet for the past two years. Katie has participated and placed in several state math tournaments over the last couple of years. This past year, she won 1st place in Algebra II in the Southwest Louisiana District Literary Rally which qualified her for State Literary Rally, where she placed 4th. Katie just returned from Dallas, Texas where she competed at the National Mu Alpha Theta Convention. When asked about her selection to LYAC, Katie commented, “Being selected to serve on the LYAC is truly an honor since only 21 in our state are chosen. I am excited to have the opportunity to be involved in the legislative process and be a voice for the youth of Louisiana. Sharing my perspective and opinions of my peers with our public officials is a role that will help me grow individually and allow me to help Louisiana.”

Sam Ingalls
Mandeville High School
Mandeville

Sam Ingalls is a senior at Mandeville High School. He has been president of his class for three years and is an active participant in the Student Council. Sam has also been president of the YMCA Youth & Government Club for two years. With his involvement in the Louisiana YMCA Youth & Government Program, he held the position of Speaker of the House at the 2011 LA Youth Legislature Conference in February, and will proudly lead the conference as Governor next year. He has also represented the organization on the national level at the Conference on National Affairs for the last two years. A former athlete and wrestler, Sam is now a member of the Drama Club and the Show Choir and has played trombone in the Jazz Band. Sam is also a participant in Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Best Buddies and National Honor Society and many other clubs and organizations.

Sam has received many awards including the 2010 Louisiana Bar Association's Civics in Action Award for his work to promote civic education and youth involvement in politics & government. In the same year, he received the Monice Oliphant Award for Best Delegate at the 2010 Youth Legislature Conference. In 2011, he received the Principal's Award for Undergraduate Student of the Year at Mandeville High School. He was also given the opportunity to represent MHS at both the Louisiana Hugh O'Brian Youth (HOBY) Leadership Seminar in 2010 and American Legion's Louisiana Boys State in 2011. Sam worked at the United States Capitol as a page for Republican senators in the summer of 2010.

Kathryn James
Mandeville High School
Mandeville

Kathryn James is a junior at Mandeville High, where she is Student Council vice-president. She is also an officer in Science Club and Youth in Government. Last year, she founded the Political Thinkers club to discuss current political happenings. This summer, Kathryn will attend the World Leadership Congress in Chicago and the Conference on National Affairs at the Blue Ridge Conference Center. Kathryn volunteers at the library, has participated in building houses with Habitat for Humanity, and is a lay leader at Grace Disciples of Christ Church.

Clare Messina
Cabrini High School
New Orleans

Clare Messina is a senior at Cabrini High School and has served her peers as a member of the Student Council Executive Board, Class President and Class Senator. Cabrini High School has benefitted from Clare's leadership skills as evidenced by her active involvement in Campus Ministry, the St. Jude Community Outreach Program, and planning of various workshops and retreats including World Youth Day with the Archdiocese of New Orleans. Clare has held numerous

executive board offices in SANYO (St. Andrew New Youth Organization) and has taught CCD classes at the church parish of St. Andrew the Apostle in New Orleans. She has served her community as a youth volunteer at the Down's Syndrome of New Orleans' Buddy Walk, Relay for Life in New Orleans benefitting the American Cancer Society and has twice participated in the annual March for Life in Washington, D. C., as a voice for the unborn. Clare was chosen as a Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership (HOBY) ambassador and this summer she will attend the Kelly School of Business Young Women's Institute at Indiana University. When asked about her involvement on the council, Clare noted "There are many issues and decisions made by lawmakers that impact the youth and rarely we have a say in these matters. I look forward to the opportunity to share my voice and the voice of my peers, and to participate in the legislative process. I believe we the youth are capable of making a difference and the time to do so is now."

Abby Tran
Helen Cox High School
New Orleans

Abby Tran is a junior at Helen Cox High School. She is also a young leader at her school, serving as the vice president of the Youth & Government Club and the National Honor Society, and is also a member of the volleyball team and Key Club. Of her involvement in the youth council, she stated, "Through this youth council, we will serve as a voice for youth by offering our suggestions where needed and providing advice to legislators on issues affecting young people across the state. Our generation will face enormous challenges, but we can bring a unique energy and enthusiasm to public discussions."